

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 143 – Even In Laughter Through Mercy And Truth For The Good (Proverbs 14:13-22)

1. Can laughter occur while someone has a sorrowful heart?

Yes: *“Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness”* (**Proverbs 14:13**).

*NKJV reads: “Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, And the end of mirth may be grief”.

*One’s outward expression or even words does not necessarily declare what is going on within that individual (**Psalms 55:21**).

*An example of this is when a faithful Christian dies wherein we should be find that precious (**Psalms 116:15** and **Ephesians 5:1**). The heart of the wise is in mourning (**Ecclesiastes 7:4**), but we are also joyful that one has finished the course (**II Timothy 4:6-8**).

2. Who will be filled with his own ways?

“The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself” (**Proverbs 14:14**).

* What is a backslider? Answer: **Jeremiah 3:6; 3:11-14, Jeremiah 8:5, Jeremiah 14:7, and II Peter 2:20-22**.

* For good or bad, you reap what you sow (**Job 4:8, Proverbs 1:31, Proverbs 12:14, Proverbs 22:8, Isaiah 3:10-11, Jeremiah 2:19, Jeremiah 4:16-18, Ezekiel 22:31, John 5:28-29, and Galatians 6:7-8**).

3. What kind of person will believe anything they are told?

“The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going” (**Proverbs 14:15**).

* We cannot believe everything we hear. In fact, we are instructed to be of the opposite mindset (**I John 4:1, Jeremiah 29:8-9, Acts 20:28-31, and I Thessalonians 5:21**).

* Those of us who know the truth are expected to expose liars so that the simple [naïve] are not so easily targeted (**Romans 16:17-18**).

* *“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished”* (**Proverbs 22:3**).

4. What is the difference between a wise man and a fool in how they respond to evil?

* *"A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident"* (**Proverbs 14:16**).

* Commentary on how fear moves us from evil is here: **Proverbs 3:7, Proverbs 14:27, Proverbs 16:6, Proverbs 16:17, and II Corinthians 7:1**.

* The fool goes forward with false confidence (**Proverbs 28:26 and Romans 10:1-3**).

5. Do those who get angry quickly make good decisions?

No: *"He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated"* (**Proverbs 14:17**).

* **Proverbs 14:29, Proverbs 16:32, Proverbs 29:22, Ecclesiastes 7:9, and James 1:19-20**.

* That is not to say that one cannot be angry, if they maintain a righteous anger (**Psalms 7:11, Jeremiah 15:17, and Ephesians 4:26**).

6. What do the simple inherit?

"The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge" (**Proverbs 14:18**).

* Because some is so naïve and easy to deceive, they'll inherit folly (**Proverbs 15:21 and II Corinthians 11:3**).

7. Is there anything in our study that shows us that the wicked do (or will at some time) show respect unto the righteous?

Yes: *"The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous"* (**Proverbs 14:19**).

* **Revelation 3:9**

8. In the eyes of the world (not of God or godly people; cf. Proverbs 14:21 and Luke 6:20), are the rich exalted above the poor?

Yes: *"The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends"* (**Proverbs 14:20**).

* **Proverbs 10:15, Proverbs 19:4, Proverbs 19:7, Ecclesiastes 9:16, and James 2:1-12**.

9. Is it a sin to carnally despise one's neighbor?

Yes: *"He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he"* (**Proverbs 14:21**).

* For one, we must understand that we must despise sinners spiritually (**Psalms 26:5, Psalms 97:10, Psalms 101:3, Proverbs 29:27, Amos 5:14-15, Romans 12:9, II Corinthians 6:14-18, and James 4:4**), thus the distinction here has to be made between carnal and spiritual actions.

* Making that clear, we must understand that we're to love our neighbors (**Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 19:19, Romans 13:9-10, and Galatians 5:14**).

* Some say, "how can I love my neighbor as myself and hate them at the same time?" The same way in that you should hate yourself when you sin (**Job 42:6**). This is what separates carnal hatred from spiritual hatred. Spiritual hatred [disgust, abhorrence] causes us to seek hard to convert rather than destroy that which we hate (**Luke 9:56; 19:10**).

10. Why should you want to devise [plot; plan] good rather than evil?

"Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good" (**Proverbs 14:22**).

* **I Peter 3:10-11**